

Outline of Events After World War II

I. The War's Aftermath

A. Devastation

1. As many as 50 million are dead.
2. Horrors of Holocaust are learned.

B. War Crimes Trials

1. Axis leaders are tried for crimes against humanity.
2. Many of those accused are never captured or brought to trial.
3. Political and military leaders are held accountable for wartime actions.

C. Occupying Allies

1. Totalitarian ideologies are discredited.
2. United States believes that strengthening democracy would ensure peace.

II. Establishing the United Nations

A. General Assembly

1. Each nation has one vote.

B. Security Council

1. Five permanent members
2. Power to apply sanctions or send peacekeeping forces

C. Other UN activities

1. World Health Organization
2. Food and Agricultural Organization

III. The Alliance Breaks Apart

A. Differences Grow Between the Allies.

1. Divisions occur over reparations and the nature of the governments of Eastern Europe.
2. Conflicting ideologies and mistrust lead to Cold War.

B. The Cold War Begins.

1. Stalin wants to spread communism in Eastern Europe and create a buffer against Germany.
2. Roosevelt and Churchill favor free elections in Eastern Europe.

Outline of Events After World War II (cont.)

3. By 1948, pro-Soviet governments are in place in Eastern Europe.

IV. New Conflicts Develop

A. The Truman Doctrine

1. Results from Soviet incursions into southeastern Europe
2. Policy is rooted in doctrine of containment of Soviet Union.
3. Guides United States for decades

B. The Marshall Plan

1. United States gives food and economic assistance to European nations.
2. Helps war-shattered Europe recover quickly
3. Stalin declines and forbids aid to Eastern European countries; promises Soviet aid

C. Germany Stays Divided.

1. Soviet Union takes reparations from Germany by dismantling and removing factories.
2. Britain, France, and United States also take some reparations.
3. Western Allies unite their zones of occupation and extend Marshall Plan to West Germany.
4. Soviets install socialist dictatorship under Stalin's control in East Germany.

D. Berlin Airlift

1. Stalin seals off railways and roads to Western sectors of city.
2. West responds with airlift for more than a year.
3. Soviets end blockade, but crisis deepens.

E. Opposing Alliances

1. United States forms NATO in 1949.
2. Soviets respond with Warsaw Pact in 1955.

F. Propaganda War

1. United States defends capitalism and democracy against communism and totalitarianism.
2. Soviets claim moral high ground in struggle against Western imperialism.